CALIFORNIA
High-Speed Rail Authority

California High-Speed Train Project

Los Angeles-Anaheim Section

Fall 2010

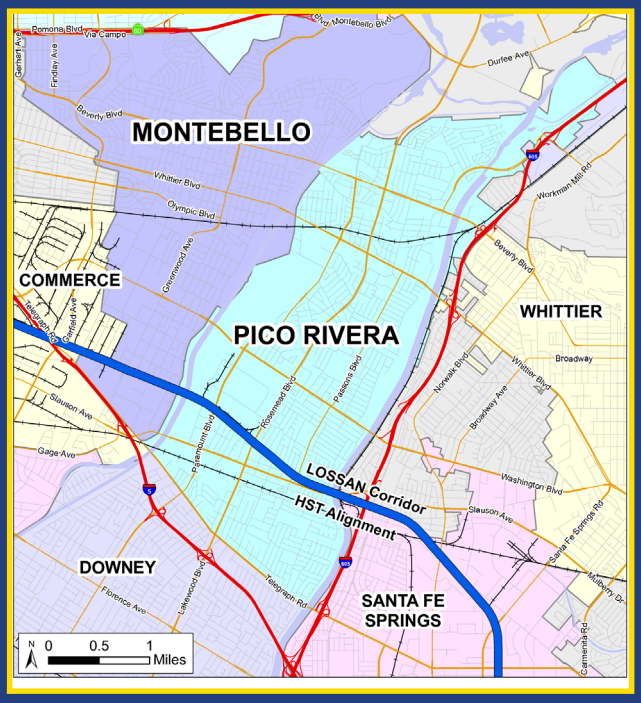
High-Speed Rail in Montebello

Introduction

In 1996, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) began planning a high-speed train system for travel between major metropolitan areas of California. To develop this project, the CHSRA divided the state route into sections, including the corridor from Los Angeles to Anaheim.

The proposed alignment for the Los Angeles to Anaheim section would travel along the existing Los Angeles – San Diego (LOSSAN) Passenger Rail Corridor between Los Angeles Union Station and the future Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC). An additional station is being considered for either Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs or Fullerton.

The Los Angeles to San Diego section is 167 miles long and will travel east from Los Angeles Union Station to the Inland Empire before turning south along either the I-215 or I-15 en route to San Diego. The technical teams for these two sections are working together to coordinate efforts through the Gateway Cities, including Montebello.



Los Angeles to Anaheim Corridor Alternatives

Two alternatives are being considered to determine if high-speed trains can operate between Los Angeles and Anaheim on a shared track with other passenger trains or if tracks dedicated only to high-speed trains need to be built.

Consolidated Shared-Track Alternative (2 HST/ Passenger Tracks & 3 Freight Tracks): Under this scenario, high-speed trains would operate on the same tracks as Metrolink and Amtrak trains. Five tracks would be needed: two for high-speed trains and passenger trains; three for freight and passenger trains.

Dedicated Track Alternative (2 HST Tracks, 3 Passenger/ Freight Tracks, & 1 Future Passenger/Freight Track): In this scenario, separate tracks would be built specifically for high-speed trains along the corridor. This would require six tracks: two for high-speed trains and three for freight and passenger trains with space reserved for a fourth track to be built in the future.

Montebello Alignment- Los Angeles to Anaheim Section

The high-speed train tracks will follow the existing LOSSAN Corridor through the City of Montebello between Washington Boulevard and Slauson Avenue. The existing corridor is generally 100 feet wide in this area, and has three or more existing tracks. The options currently being examined include:

Consolidated Shared-Track Alternative

- At-Grade – This option would construct two new high-speed train tracks at ground level to the south of the existing tracks. To fit all tracks in the corridor at-grade, all existing tracks would be shifted to the north. Approximately 15 to 30 feet of additional right-of-way width will need to be acquired on the south side of the existing tracks (depending on the track configuration in the area).

Consolidated Shared-Track Alternative (Continued)

- Aerial – This option would construct the two new high-speed train tracks on an elevated structure next to the existing tracks. The new tracks would be located approximately 30 to 35 feet above ground level, and to the south of the existing tracks. Minimal new right-of-way would need to be acquired for this option.

Dedicated Alternative

- At-Grade – This option would construct two new high-speed train tracks at ground level to the south of the existing tracks. To fit all tracks in the corridor at-grade, approximately 60 feet of additional right-of-way width will need to be acquired on the south side of the existing tracks (depending on the track configuration in the area).

Grade Crossings- Los Angeles to Anaheim Section

The high-speed train system requires many existing at-grade railroad street crossings to be separated from vehicle traffic, improving the efficiency and safety of the high-speed train system as well as improving traffic on local streets.

One street in Montebello, Greenwood Avenue, currently crosses underneath the LOSSAN corridor tracks. When the high-speed train project is constructed, a new bridge would be built to the south of the existing bridge to also carry the high-speed train tracks over Greenwood Avenue.

Environmental Review

Following the completion of the statewide program-level environmental document in 2005, the project-level environmental review process for the Los Angeles to Anaheim section was initiated in January 2007. The purpose of the environmental review process is to identify potential environmental benefits and impacts and develop mitigation measures to address the impacts whenever possible.

The CHSRA prepared an Alternatives Analysis Report and a Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report for the Los Angeles to Anaheim section. These reports identified how to best accommodate high-speed trains within the LOSSAN corridor, taking into account what is required to run high-speed trains and minimizing impacts to adjacent communities. The Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report also examined the feasibility of the shared track alternative and determined that high-speed trains can operate on the same tracks as other passenger rail services (Metrolink and Amtrak) with modifications to the system.

Next Steps

The technical team is continuing environmental studies outlined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to determine potential project impacts and mitigation measures. These studies are the most comprehensive and provide the most opportunity for community feedback in the nation. A Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Los Angeles to Anaheim section will be released to the public in early 2011. Public feedback combined with technical information will help determine the options recommended for consideration by the CHSRA Board of Directors.

Get Involved

The project team is available to answer your questions and receive your comments. In addition, please let us know if you are interested in receiving our email updates or would like to schedule a high-speed train presentation at your organization's next meeting. If you would like to join the California High-Speed Rail Authority's mailing list, sign up at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/Receive_Email_Updates.aspx.

- Visit our website at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov
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